
Subject: Too Many Coincidences!

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 13 Feb 2013 22:15:02 GMT

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Folks,

I am teaching an IDL class at the University this semester and I have never, ever run into so many problems getting IDL installed and operational. The University IT people and the fine folks at Excelis have been hugely helpful and hardworking and it seems we are getting close to a solution.

All this to say that I have now had the *same* weird experience with new IDL users twice in the same week. I still don't know what to make of it, and I certainly don't pretend to understand it. The first of these experiences occurred in the class on Monday.

Because of certain permission problems and the way IDL is installed, we needed to modify the IDL start-up script to locate the secret .idl and Workspace files on each users local partition on a networked drive. Because we have been fooling around with this for about three weeks now, and we have tried a number of things, we had several Workspaces set up in this users private area. So, before we did anything else, we deleted his Workspace folders. Then we ran the batch script to set IDL up, and all appeared fine. Other people in the class followed exactly (as far as I know) the same procedure as per my instructions. (The secret .idl folder was installed in the C:/Users/MyGuy folder, and we deleted that, too.)

Next, we downloaded the Coyote Library, extracted it, and added it to the Workbench as a project, and we added the Coyote Library to the IDL path from the Preferences menu in the Workbench. I supervised this process MULTIPLE times! In fact, I threw him out of the chair and did it myself just to be sure there wasn't some slight of hand going on.

The gist of my story is that no matter WHAT we did, we could not get that damn Coyote directory on the IDL path! It just was not having any of it. All the other students in the class were good to go. It was just this one student (nice guy!) who was holding us up.

OK, so the Universe is out of alignment, or the guys at Excelis have installed something in IDL 8.2 that wards off the Coyote Library. I don't know. I couldn't figure it out and I had to move on. The guy moved to another machine, logged into his same account, performed the SAME operations as before, and got things working as they are suppose to work before I had finished with the class.

Strange, but, you know, it's a computer. Anything can happen.

So, today, I have (apparently, because I am doing all this via e-mail) EXACTLY the same thing happening to me. New user, installs IDL on a Windows machine, tries to get the Coyote Library installed according to my VERY detailed instructions and multiple methods, and he is having no joy whatsoever!

What the....!?

I've been doing this for a long time. I really have seen most of it. But this is something COMPLETELY different. Talk about the Path Problem from Hell.

Does anyone have any ideas? I'm at a complete and utter loss.

Cheers

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
